

## Appendix A. Definitions and Explanations

**Population coverage.** The figures in this report for October 1989 are sample survey data and related to the civilian noninstitutional population of the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

### **Introduction of 1980 census population controls.**

The estimation procedure used for this survey involves the inflation of the weighted sample results to independent estimates of the civilian noninstitutional population of the United States by age, race, and sex. These independent estimates are based on civilian noninstitutional population counts from the decennial censuses and are updated with statistics on births, deaths, immigration, and emigration and statistics on the strength of the Armed Forces. Data published for 1972 through 1980 were based on independent population estimates derived by updating the 1970 decennial census counts. Starting with the data collected in the October 1981 Current Population Survey (CPS), independent estimates were based on civilian noninstitutional population controls for age, race, and sex established by the 1980 decennial census.

The April 1980 census population count differed somewhat from the independent estimates for April 1980 derived by updating 1970 census population figures. The April 1980 census count of the civilian noninstitutional population was 222,420,441, compared with the 1970 census-based figures of 217,400,244 used for the CPS. Basically, this difference had little impact on summary or proportional measures, such as medians and percent distributions; however, use of the new controls could have significant effect on the absolute numbers.

**Presence of a computer.** The first respondent in the household was asked if there was a computer in that household, and if so, in what year it was purchased. Respondents were also read a list of computer components and asked which of these components their computer had. (See appendix C for facsimile of questionnaire items on computer use.)

**Use of computers.** Each adult individual (ages 15 and above) was asked if they used a computer at work (if they were reported to be working or with a job), at school (if they were reported to be enrolled), and at home (if they were reported to live in a household where there was a computer). Interviewers preceded these

questions with a statement specifying that the concept of use referred to "direct or 'hands on' use of computers with typewriter-like keyboards...questions do NOT refer to hand-held computers or computer games which have a typewriter keyboard." Each question of use (work, school, home) asked, "does...directly use a computer" at the given locale. Children (ages 3 to 14) were asked about use at school (if enrolled) and at home (if a computer was present). The same concept of "direct use" was employed in the questions for children.

**Kinds of computer use at home.** For individuals who responded that a home computer was available and they did use it, an additional question asked about the uses of the home computer. Adults were shown a flashcard with a list of 17 different computer uses and were asked to identify all those they used at home. Children (3-14 years of age) were shown a different flashcard with a shorter list of responses (11 choices).

**Frequency of computer use at home.** Both children and adults who had a computer at home and reported using it were asked how many days per week on average they had used the computer during the last month. The amount of time per use was not asked.

**Kinds of computer use at work.** For all adults who responded that they used a computer at work an additional question asked about uses of the computer at work. Persons were shown a flashcard with a list of 19 different computer uses and were asked to identify all those they used at work.

**School enrollment.** The school enrollment statistics from the current survey are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was enrolled in school. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year in any type of graded public, parochial, or other private school in the regular school system. Such schools include nursery schools, kindergartens, elementary schools, high schools, colleges, universities, and professional schools. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Thus, regular schooling is that which may advance a person toward an elementary or high school diploma or a college, university, or professional school degree. Children enrolled in nursery schools and kindergarten are included in the enrollment figures for regular schools and are also shown separately.

Special schools are those which are not in the regular school system, such as trade schools or business colleges. Persons attending special schools are not included in the enrollment figures.

Persons enrolled in classes which do not require physical presence in school, such as correspondence courses or other courses of independent study, and in training courses given directly on the job, are also excluded from the count of those enrolled in school, unless such courses are being counted for credit at a regular school.

**College enrollment.** The college enrollment statistics are based on replies to the enumerator's inquiry as to whether the person was attending or enrolled in college. Enumerators were instructed to count as enrolled anyone who had been enrolled at any time during the current term or school year, except those who have left for the remainder of the term. Thus, regular college enrollment includes those persons attending a 4-year or 2-year college, university, or professional school (such as medical or law school) in courses that may advance the student toward a recognized college or university degree (e.g., BA or MA). Attendance may be either full time or part time, during the day or night.

**Two-year and 4-year colleges.** Students enrolled in the first 3 years of college were asked to report whether the college in which they were enrolled was a 2-year college (junior or community college) or a 4-year college or university. Students in the 4th academic year of college or higher were assumed to be in a 4-year college or university.

**Public or private school.** In this report, a public school is defined as any educational institution operated by publicly elected or appointed school officials and supported by public funds. Private schools include educational institutions established and operated by religious bodies, as well as those which are under other private control. In cases where enrollment was in a school or college which was both publicly and privately controlled or supported, enrollment was counted according to whether it was primarily public or private.

**Full-time and part-time attendance.** College students were classified, in this report, according to whether they were attending school on a full-time or part-time basis. A student was regarded as attending college full time if he was taking 12 or more hours of classes during the average school week, and part time if he was taking less than 12 hours of classes during the average school week.

**Age.** The age classification is based on the age of the person at his last birthday.

**Race.** The population is divided into three groups on the basis of race—White, Black, and other races. The last category includes Indians, Japanese, Chinese, and any other race except White and Black. In this report, other races are not shown separately.

**Hispanic origin.** Information on origin or descent was obtained by asking "What is (this person's) origin or descent?" Responses generally refer to a person's perceived national or ethnic lineage and do not necessarily indicate the country of birth of himself or his parents.

Persons of Hispanic origin are persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, Mexicano, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or other Spanish origin. However, all persons who reported themselves as Mexican American, Chicano, Mexican, or Mexicano were combined into the one category—Mexican. Persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

**Marital status.** The marital status category shown in this report, "married, spouse present," includes persons who are currently married and living with their spouse.

The category "other marital status" includes persons who are single (never married), separated, divorced, or widowed.

**Family.** The term "family," as used here, refers to a group of two persons or more related by blood, marriage, or adoption and residing together; all such persons are considered as members of one family.

**Family head.** In the CPS, the term "head of family" is used to refer to persons maintaining the household. This practice was discontinued in surveys conducted after the 1980 Census of Population. However, in surveys taken prior to the 1980 Census of Population, women were not classified as the "head of family" if their husbands were present.

**Head versus householder.** In the 1980 census, the Bureau of the Census discontinued the use of the terms "head of household" and "head of family." Instead, the terms "householder" and "family householder" were used. Recent social changes resulted in greater sharing of household responsibilities among the adult members and, therefore, made the term "head" inappropriate in the analysis of household and family data. Specifically, the Bureau reconsidered its longtime practice of always classifying the husband as the head when he and his wife are living together.

In the 1980 census, the householder was the first adult household member listed on the census questionnaire. The instructions called for listing first the person (or one of the persons) in whose name the home is owned or rented. If a home is owned jointly by a married

couple, either the husband or the wife was listed first, thereby becoming the reference person, or householder, to whom the relationship of other household members was recorded. The same procedure was followed in the CPS surveys conducted after the 1980 census. Therefore, the Bureau is publishing the responses on relationship as given in the CPS— husband or wife could be the family householder.

**Family income.** In this report, family income is derived from a single question asked of the household respondent when a household first enters the sample and is updated on the anniversary of entry. Income includes money income from jobs; net income from business, farm, or rent; pensions; dividends; interest; Social Security payments; and any other money income. The income of nonrelatives living in the household is excluded, but the income of all family members 14 years old and over, including those temporarily living away, is included. It should be noted that while characteristics of the person, such as age and marital status, and the composition of families refer to the date of the interview, family income statistics refer to receipts over a 12-month period starting 12 to 16 months prior to the interview.

The money income level of families shown in this report may be somewhat understated. Income data from the October control card are based on the respondent's estimate of total family money income in broad, fixed income intervals. Income data collected in the March supplement to the CPS are based on responses to 11 direct questions asked about each person 14 years old and over and identifying 23 different sources of income in the preceding calendar year. Previous research has shown that the use of broad income intervals to record money income tends to reduce the rate of nonreporting, while increasing the likelihood that

the amounts reported will be significantly understated as compared with results from more detailed questions.

**Geographic regions.** The four major regions of the United States, for which data are presented, represent groups of States as follows:

*Northeast*— Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and Vermont.

*Midwest*— Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

*South*— Alabama, Arkansas, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia.

*West*— Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

**Symbols.** The following symbols are used in the tables:

-	Represents zero or rounds to zero.
B	The base of the derived figure is less than 75,000.
X	Not applicable.
NA	Not available.

**Rounding of estimates.** Individual figures are rounded to the nearest thousand without being adjusted to group totals which are independently rounded. With few exceptions, percentages are based on the rounded absolute numbers.